

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192117
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-02 NSCE-00 SS-14 SSO-00 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01
H-01 TRSE-00 /039 R

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APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY
ARA/CEN:DFIGGINS
HA:MSCHNEIDER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192117

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PEPR, MPOL, HO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN MELGAR GOVERNMENT

REFERENCE: TEGUCIGALPA 3486

1. IT IS OUR PERCEPTION THAT MELGAR GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDES WELL REGARDED CIVILIANS, HAS A RELATIVELY GOOD RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HAS A TIMETABLE, THOUGH SOMEWHAT DRAWN OUT, FOR RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES, IS MORE IN LINE WITH US INTERESTS THAN WOULD BE THE LIKELY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT DESCRIBED REFTEL. WE ASSUME CESAR BATRES' PURPOSE IN SHARING ALLEGATION REFTEL WITH AMBASSADOR WAS TO ELICIT SOME SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR MELGAR GOVERNMENT.

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2. SOME REASONABLY DELICATE SIGN OF SUPPORT SEEMS TO US TO BE USEFUL. WOULD THERE BE AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS (PERHAPS AN AID PROJECT DEDICATION OR SOMETHING SIMILAR) FOR AMBASSADOR TO MAKE A STATEMENT PRAISING GOH'S COMMITMENT TO INITIATING THE PROCESS OF INSTITUTIONALIZING DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES? STATE-

MENTSHOULD REFRAIN FROM ENDORSING THE PARTICULAR TIME-
TABLE WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE LENGTHIER THAN NECESSARY.

ANOTHER POSSIBLE THEME WOULD BE DEDICATION TO DEVELOPMENT
RESULTING FROM TEAM WORK OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MEMBERS
OF GOVERNMENT AND/OR COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER
MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN GOH AND USG.

3. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO MAKE SEPARATE, CONFIDENTIAL
DEMARCHE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF SDC TO EXPRESS USG
HOPE THAT GOH WILL MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENT TO MOVING
EXPEDITIOUSLY TOWARD INSTITUTIONALIZING DEMOCRATIC
PROCEDURES IN HONDURAS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REACTION TO THESE SUGGES-
TIONS AS WELL AS ANY RECOMMENDATION EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON
ALTERNATIVE OR ADDITIONAL MEASURES.

VANCE

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